

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01

OES-06 NEA-10 DHA-02 /078 W
----- 064385

R 051622Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 5187

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINS UR US CSCE

SUBJECT: EMBASSY CLOSED AREA ACCESS

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 4074, (B) MOSCOW 3859

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY SUBMITTED FIVE CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION REQUESTS DURING MARCH, ALL OF WHICH WERE DENIED. HOWEVER ECONOMIC SECTION REQUEST FOR SURVEY OF CMEA PROJECTS IN WESTERN UKRAINE, WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL CLOSED AREAS, WAS APPROVED FIRST WEEK IN APRIL. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY ATTEMPTED TO VISIT FOUR CLOSED CITIES IN MARCH: MUKACHEVO (REFTELS); TARTU; KALININGRAD; AND GOR'KIY. THREE EXCEPTION REQUESTS WERE DENIED ON GROUNDS THAT CITIES WERE PERMANENTLY CLOSED AND EXCEPTIONS WERE NOT POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, THE PHRASEOLOGY USED BY MFA TO DENY TRAVEL TO MUKACHEVO WAS THAT USUALLY RESERVED FOR OPEN AREA REFUSALS --I.E., TRAVEL WAS NOT PERMITTED "FOR REASONS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE" AND PRESAGED A TURNAROUND IN EARLY APRIL.

3. FIRST SECRETARY ARTHUR SMITH ARRANGED, THROUGH THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMY OF THE WORLD SOCIALIST SYSTEM (WHICH IS UNDER THE USSR ACADEMY OF
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SCIENCES), A VISIT TO CMEA COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN THE

WESTERN UKRAINE WHICH INCLUDES MUKACHEVO.
SMITH AND WIFE DEPARTED 2 APRIL, AND WE WILL AWAIT THEIR
RETURN ON 10 APRIL TO SEE WHETHER THEY WERE PERMITTED IN
FACT TO STOP IN MUKACHEVO. FYI - SMITH PLANS TO
ASCERTAIN THE GENERAL CONDITION AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE
JEWISH CEMETARY IN MUKACHEVO BUT WILL NOT MAKE AN
OFFICIAL INQUIRY; WE WISH TO RESERVE THAT FUNCTION
FOR A CONSULAR VISIT THE LAST WEEK OF APRIL. END FYI.

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS APPROPRIATE RETALIATION FOR FIVE CLOSED AREA
TURNDOWNS REPORTED ABOVE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULAR PERSONNEL, TRAVEL CONTROLS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW05187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760128-0135
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760497/aaaadfbfbc.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 4074, 76 MOSCOW 3859
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMBASSY CLOSED AREA ACCESS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UR, US, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006